

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are allowed in this application. By this Amendment, claims 27-29 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-26 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Takemura et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,988,784, in view of Igarashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,450,612. Claims 27-29 have been canceled rendering the rejections moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. O'Neill
Registration No. 27,075

Steven D. Jinks
Registration No. 62,760

JAO:SDJ/bab

Date: January 30, 2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461